

Message Text

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EXDIS

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TAGS: NL, PARM, NATO, MNUC

SUBJECT: ASSISTANT SECRETARY VEST'S MEETING WITH PIETER
DANKERT

1. VEST SAW DANKERT FOR ONE HOUR ON MARCH 20.
2. ENHANCED RADIATION WEAPONS.

-- TO DANKERT'S QUESTION WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE, VEST
SAID THE IMPORTANT THING WAS TO DO WHATEVER WE DO TOGETHER
AS AN ALLIANCE. HE CAUTIONED AGAINST ALLOWING THE ISSUE
TO BECOME SYMBOLIC; IT MUST BE TREATED ON ITS MERITS.
DANKERT SAID DUTCH OPPOSITION DID NOT HAVE AN ANTI-NATO
CAST. THE ANTI-NATO ELEMENTS ARE KEEPING QUIET.

3. US/EUROPEAN CONSULTATIONS.

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-- VEST SAID - WE WERE FULLY SENSITIVE TO THE NEED FOR
FULL CONSULTATIONS. WE GOT SOME COMPLAINTS ABOUT CON-
SULTATIONS ON SALT AND THE GRAY AREA AND, PARTLY, AS A
RESULT, OUR CONSULTATIONS IN NATO HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY
FULL, AND HAVE TAKEN PLACE PRIOR TO OUR HAVING TAKEN
DECISIONS. IN THE GRAY AREA, FOR EXAMPLE, WE ARE STILL
WIDE OPEN ON WHAT TO DO AND, HOW TO DO IT. VEST STRESSED

THE IMPORTANCE OF MEETINGS LIKE THE NATO SUMMIT HERE AND A POSSIBLE ECONOMIC SUMMIT IN BONN. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE PRESIDENT WAS A GOOD LISTENER AND PAID CAREFUL HEED TO WHAT PEOPLE HAD TO SAY TO HIM.

4. SALT.

-- DANKERT SAID HE WAS STRUCK BY THE DEPTH OF FEELING IN THE US CONGRESS ABOUT SALT II. VEST ACKNOWLEDGED THERE WAS SOME IRRITATION ON THE HILL BUT SAID HE THOUGHT THEY WOULD GO ALONG WITH A RATIONAL AGREEMENT. IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE YET, HE SAID, TO DEFINE HOW WE WILL PROCEED WITH SALT III AND WHAT WE WILL SEEK. NOTING THE DEBATE IN WESTERN EUROPE, VEST EMPHASIZED THE SECRETARY WAS FULLY AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE VIEWS OF OUR ALLIES.

5. CSCE.

-- STRESSING THE POSITIVE ASPECTS VEST SAID THE SOVIETS FELT THEY HAD PAID FOR THE HELSINKI DOCUMENT AND WERE NOT WILLING TO PAY AGAIN AT BELGRADE. THEY DID NOT WALK OUT, HOWEVER, DETENTE IS TOO IMPORTANT TO THEM. HE NOTED THAT SOME EASTERN EUROPEANS HAD WELCOMED THE HELSINKI AGREEMENT BUT IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE FOR THEM TO MOVE VERY FAST. CONFIDENTIAL

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6. EUROCOMMUNISM.

-- TO DANKERT'S QUESTION WOULD THE FRENCH ELECTION RESULTS DIMINISH US PREOCCUPATION OVER EUROCOMMUNISM, VEST NOTED WE HAD ALWAYS DIFFERENTIATED BETWEEN THE PROBLEM IN FRANCE AND ITALY. WE WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE TO WATCH ITALY VERY CAREFULLY. IT IS A KEY COUNTRY FOR THE ALLIANCE IN THE SOUTH. VEST SAID SOME ITALIANS HAD MISUNDERSTOOD AND OVER-REACTED TO OUR JANUARY STATEMENT ON EUROCOMMUNISM. IN FACT IT WAS ALONG THE SAME LINES AS OUR APRIL 77 STATEMENT.

7. DUTCH NUCLEAR FUEL TO BRAZIL.

-- DANKERT SAID IT LOOKED AS IF THE DUTCH WERE OUT OF THE PICTURE FOR THE SUPPLY OF ENRICHED URANIUM TO BRAZIL WITH THE FRG AND THE UK. THE LATTER COUNTRIES WOULD NOT GO ALONG WITH THE DUTCH SAFEGUARDS PROPOSALS.

8. DUTCH POLITICS.

-- DANKERT SAID THE NEXT DUTCH MINISTER TO GO MAY BE
FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DER KLAUW. HE IS UNABLE TO DEAL
EFFECTIVELY WITH THE PARLIAMENT AND HE HAS BEEN BROKEN BY
THE PRESS. VANCE

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